



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

Bill Richardson  
*Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2003-010**

## **ESTABLISHING BENEFITS FOR DOMESTIC PARTNERS OF STATE EMPLOYEES**

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico greatly benefits from employees at all levels of State government who are engaged in long-term committed domestic partner relationships;

**WHEREAS**, domestic partners of State of New Mexico employees in committed, long-term unmarried relationships exceeding twelve months in duration, who are jointly responsible for the common welfare of each other and who share financial obligations are not currently afforded those employment benefits offered married persons in equally committed, long-term relationships;

**WHEREAS**, several state and local governments have identified the need to offer benefits to such domestic partners in an effort to recruit and maintain qualified governmental employees and the government of the State of New Mexico recognizes the need to recruit and maintain its own employees;

**NOW THEREFORE I**, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of New Mexico, do hereby order the General Services Department and the State Personnel Office to engage in negotiations with benefits providers to ensure that domestic partners of state employees are afforded the same benefits as spouses by July 1, 2003. Such benefits shall extend to domestic partners who are in a mutually exclusive, committed relationship, who share a primary residence for twelve or more consecutive months, who are jointly responsible for the common welfare of each other and who share financial obligations. Each state employee and domestic partner must execute an affidavit of domestic partnership;

**FURTHERMORE**, the State Personnel Office is ordered to review the regulations, qualifications and documentation of other states and local governments and adopt the regulations, requirements and documentation necessary for recognizing such long-term, committed domestic partnerships.

**THIS ORDER** supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

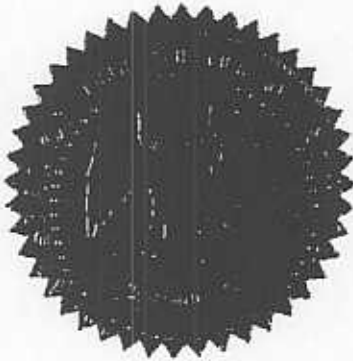
ATTEST:



REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2003

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO



BILL RICHARDSON  
GOVERNOR